GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4140
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
PURCHASE OF AMMUNITION BY EASTERN COMMAND
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jawans engaged in the terrorism fight could not be fully protected due to supply of defective arms and ammunition purchased by the Eastern Command during 1995-98;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into and the guilty persons brought to book;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken to protect the jawans from the terrorists by supplying them good quality weapons and ammunitions?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir. Prior to August 1998, Eastern Command had no financial powers to procure any items of Ordnance origin.These powers were delegated only in August 1998 and since then have only been used for procurement of items other than arms and ammunition. Arms and ammunition can only be procured at the Army Headquarter under central procurement.

(b) & (c): Not applicable.

(d) Weapons and ammunition supplied to jawans are issued only after stringent quality control checks by Directorate General Quality Assurance. All efforts are made to ensure that weapons and ammunition issued to jawans are of high quality.